

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     ADDIS 04591 281453Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
   INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5020  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4591

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR PORG RH SF WA  
SUBJECT: OAU OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON WESTERN MEDIATION EFFORTS IN  
   SOUTHERN AFRICA

SUMMARY: SENIOR OAU OFFICIAL PETER ONU REAFFIRMED OAU  
COMMITMENT TO MILITARY SOLUTION OF RHODESIAN QUESTION.  
WHILE ENCOURAGED BY "POSITIVE" ATTITUDE CARTER ADMINISTRA-  
TION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ONU BELIEVES U.S. AND  
WEST SHOULD PRESSURE VORSTER INTO FURTHER CONCESSIONS ON  
NAMIBIA AND INTO INFLUENCING RHODESIA'S CAPITULATION.  
ONU SAID THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY IN OAU RECOGNITION OF  
PATRIOTIC FRONT AS SOLE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND  
INDICATED OAU WOULD NOT UTILIZE MENGISTU'S OFFER TO TRAIN  
ADDITIONAL ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. ONU ALSO EXPRESSED  
OAU DESIRE FOR ESTABLISHMENT IN ZIMBABWE OF REGIME SIMI-  
LAR TO THOSE IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO ENHANCE EVEN-  
TUAL OAU STRUGGLE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. ED SUMMARY.

1. IN JULY 27 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, OAU ASSIS-  
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PAGE 02     ADDIS 04591 281453Z

TANT SECRETARY GENERAL PETER ONU COMMENTED ON WESTERN  
MEDIATION EFFORTS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. ONU  
STATED THAT OAU WOULD NOT DISCOURAGE WESTERN EFFORTS  
TO NEGOTIATE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT RHODESIAN CRISIS,  
BUT OAU HAD CONCLUDED FORCE WAS ONLY METHOD ABLE TO  
PERSUADE IAN SMITH TO TRANSFER POWER TO PATRIOTIC  
FRONT. THIS BELIEF BEHIND OAU'S UNANIMOUS DECISION

TO RECOGNIZE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS SOLE ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. ONU APPLAUDED CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS "POSITIVE," BUT SAID OAU BELIEVED U.S. COULD AND SHOULD APPLY MORE PRESSURE ON PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, AS SOUTH AFRICA ONLY COUNTRY WHICH INFLUENCES RHODESIA. ONU SAID OAU SAW ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORTS IN RHODESIA AS MOTIVATED BY SELF INTEREST, I.E. ECONOMIC CONCERNS AND DESIRE TO ASSIST WHITES.

2. ONU INDICATED THAT ETHIOPIAN LEADER MENGISTU'S OFFER TO TRAIN 1000, AND EVENTUALLY 5000, FREEDOM FIGHTERS WOULD NOT BE PICKED UP BY OAU. ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS HAD PLENTY OF MANPOWER, AND THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THEY NOT LOOKING FOR TRAINING OR MANPOWER HELP FROM OUTSIDE FRONT LINE STATES.

3. TURNING TO NAMIBIA, ONU ACKNOWLEDGED RESULTS OF 5-POWER EFFORTS IN PREVENTING IMPLEMENTATION OF TURNHALLE PROPOSALS, BUT ONU BELIEVES WEST SHOULD FORCE SOUTH AFRICA TO RECOGNIZE SWAPO, LIBERATE NAMIBIA, AND IMPLEMENT ALL UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS TO THIS EFFECT. ON SOUTH AFRICA, WHILE ONU INDICATED BASIC OPTIMISM OVER ULTIMATE OUTCOME IN ZIMBABWE LIBERATION STRUGGLE, HE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 04591 281453Z

BE "MORE DIFFICULT MATTER." ONU SAID IT IMPERATIVE FOR OAU THAT ZIMBABWE HAVE REGIME LIKE ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, "WILLING TO SACRIFICE NATIONAL SELF INTEREST" IN OAU STRUGGLE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. ONU CLAIMED MODERATE "PUPPET" GOVERNMENT, INSTALLED AS RESULT ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORTS, IN ZIMBABWE WOULD THWART THIS BASIC OAU PURPOSE.

4. COMMENT: INDICATIONS OF EVENTUAL OAU STRUGGLE, AND STRATEGY THEREOF, AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WERE MOST ENLIGHTENING ASPECTS THIS PORTION ONU'S DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS. ONU ASSERTED LANGUAGE OF PERTINENT OAU RESOLUTION LEFT NO AMBIGUITY OVER OAU RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT AS SOLE LIBERATION MOVEMENT, ALTHOUGH RESOLUTION LEFT WAY OPEN FOR OTHER NATIONALIST GROUPS TO JOIN FRONT AT ANY TIME AND THEREBY BENEFIT FROM SUPPORT CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER OAU COUNTRIES. THESE CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE FUNNELED THROUGH OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE DIRECTLY TO FRONT. FINALLY, ONU CONFIRMED OAU PREFERENCE FOR ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING POSITIVE ASPECTS, DEMONSTRATED CONTINUED AFRICAN SUSPICION

OF WESTER MOTIVES IN AREA. CONSIDERING HIS POSITION  
AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, EMBASSY BELIEVES ONU'S OBSERVA-  
TIONS ACCURATELY REFLECT GENERAL OAU OPINION.  
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